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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Report of proceedings had at the Redistricting
Committee for the Illinois House of Representatives held
virtually via Zoom videoconference on the 8th day of
April, A.D., 2021, commencing at the hour of 3:02 p.m.

CHAIRWOMAN:

REPRESENTATIVE LISA HERNANDEZ

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1 THE COURT: The House Committee on
2 Redistricting shall come to order. I'm State
3 Representative Lisa Hernandez. I'm one of the members
4 of the Redistricting Committee and will be chairing
5 today's hearing.

6 I'd like to begin with welcoming some of our
7 local elected officials. We have State Representative
8 Maura Hirschauer with us, and I don't see any further
9 dems.

10 So I'm going to pass it over to you, Leader
11 Butler, if you'd like to recognize some of your members.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
13 I appreciate the opportunity.

14 I'm Tim Butler, the state representative from
15 the 87th District. I represent -- I live in Springfield
16 and have a district that covers the middle part of the
17 state.

18 So I'd like to introduce -- we've got
19 Representative Avery Bourne from Morrisonville who's on
20 here today and Representative Ryan Spain, both members
21 of the Redistricting Committee. I'm just looking
22 forward to testimony about West Dupage County today.

23 So thank you, Madam Chair.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Leader Butler.

1 I will begin with a statement, and I will then
2 hand it over to Leader Butler if he chooses to also put
3 out a statement; then we will then go to a small
4 presentation by staff; and then followed by the
5 witnesses that will be testifying.

6 So I will begin by thanking everyone who has
7 chosen to participate in today's hearing. Your insight
8 and participation is as important as ever as we begin
9 the redistricting process under unprecedented
10 circumstances.

11 The United States and Illinois constitutions
12 requires the General Assembly to redraw political
13 boundaries every 10 years to account for population
14 shifts. These hearings are a part of that process.
15 House democrats are dedicated to transparency and public
16 participation in the redistricting process.

17 While state law requires a minimum of four
18 public hearings throughout the State, our Committee
19 intends to hold far more and present additional avenues
20 for public participation. Our goal is to hear from as
21 many people as possible and to gain as much information
22 as possible about the diverse communities of our state.
23 Our staff have been making hundreds of phone calls to
24 encourage participation in these upcoming hearings.

1 Those who wish to participate should be given an
2 opportunity. We are holding a series of virtual and
3 in-person hearings throughout the State.

4 Every -- early -- I should -- say last month we
5 announced a schedule of 23 hearings before proposing a
6 redistricting plan. For comparison in 2011, the House
7 Redistricting Committee held 17 hearings in total.
8 While we are guided in this endeavor by the United
9 States Constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act, the
10 and Illinois Constitution, and the Illinois Voting
11 Rights Act, we are interested in any relevant
12 demographic information, such as social, political,
13 economic, religious, or any other characteristics that
14 are unique to your community.

15 We want to hear your specific views on any
16 social, political, economic, or religious interests
17 commonly held in the community. Any specific interest
18 -- specific interest groups that exist, any concerns you
19 have regarding the current boundaries, or alternatively
20 what works well about the current boundaries and
21 suggestions for drawing of new boundaries. In short, we
22 want to hear any testimony that is relevant to the
23 drawing of our new political boundaries.

24 This year, for the first time, Illinois

1 residents will be able to participate in this process
2 from the comfort of their own homes, including through
3 report participation in these hearings and by drawing
4 their own maps via a website. They can do this through
5 the Public Drawing Portal available at
6 ILHouseDems.com/Redistricting. This will allow any
7 Illinois resident to draw districts and share those maps
8 with the Committee for consideration.

9 The public may also submit written testimony or
10 other public comment to the Committee by email at
11 RedistrictingCommittee@HDS.ILGA.Gov. All written
12 testimony, public comments, and maps submitted to the
13 Committee will be made publicly available at ILGA.Gov
14 and ILHouseDems.com/redistricting. Transcripts of the
15 Committee's hearings will also be uploaded to those
16 sites.

17 As for today, we will begin with a short slide
18 show presentation. Following that brief presentation,
19 we have a number of witnesses who have indicated a
20 desire to testify. If you have written testimony
21 prepared, we will ask that you submit the testimony to
22 us and just briefly summarize it in your oral
23 presentation.

24 Next, I'll just hand it over to you, Leader

1 Butler, if you'd like to say anything further.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: No. I think I'm good to
3 go. I'm just looking forward to another hearing.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Leader Butler, I
5 do want you to know I have four -- no, five panels, but
6 each panel has one person, so it's really a total of
7 five people. Do we just want to go through it and
8 then --

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Go through it in one?
10 That's fine.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I'm good with that.
13 Yes.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. All right.

15 So after the -- okay. So now next we will ask
16 our staff to present the short video. And that's
17 Marissa.

18 Marissa, can you begin? Thank you.

19 STAFF MEMBER JACKSON-DONNELL: Hello, my name is
20 Marissa Jackson-Donnell. I'm an employee of the
21 Illinois House of Representatives, and I'm here to give
22 a brief overview of the State's redistricting procedure.

23 I'll briefly discuss the background of
24 redistricting and the redistricting process in Illinois.

1 I will also be going over federal and state
2 redistricting requirements and guidelines. Finally, we
3 will be looking at what preliminary data reveals about
4 population trends in the state and region.

5 Redistricting is the process that ensures all
6 Illinois residents are afforded equal representation in
7 the state legislature and Federal Congress as guaranteed
8 by the United States Constitution.

9 The U.S. Supreme Court held a series of rulings
10 in the 1960s that Congressional and state legislative
11 districts in each state must be of approximately equal
12 population, establishing the principle of one person,
13 one vote. As a result, states redraw their
14 Congressional and state districts every 10 years to
15 reflect changes in population.

16 The timeline for redrawing the legislative map
17 is based on the Illinois constitution. The constitution
18 gives the Illinois legislature the initial
19 responsibility of passing the new legislative map. Both
20 the State House and State Senate must pass a plan with
21 majority votes, which then must be signed by the
22 governor.

23 If a new map does not go into effect by the
24 constitutional deadline of June 30th, responsibility for

1 creating a new map passes from the legislature to a
2 legislative redistricting commission. The commission
3 would consist of eight members, with two each appointed
4 by the legislative leaders and no more than four from
5 the same political party. A majority vote of five or
6 more commission members will constitute final approval
7 of a new map.

8 However, if the commission does not agree to a
9 map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court will
10 submit two names, one from each party to the Illinois
11 Secretary of State, who will then choose one name at
12 random to serve as the ninth member of the commission.
13 Five of the nine members of the commission must agree to
14 a plan no later than October 5th.

15 In order to understand the process of creating
16 new districts, we must look at some legal guiding
17 principles.

18 First among these is equal population.
19 Congressional districts must be nearly equal in
20 population, while state districts must be substantially
21 equal population.

22 Federal and state law also requires that all
23 districts be contiguous, which means that all parts of a
24 district must be next to each other unless connected by

1 water. Annexations and unincorporated areas and
2 municipalities and counties sometimes mean communities
3 are discontinuous. However, Congressional and state
4 districts must be adjacent or connected at all points.

5 A more difficult requirement to define is
6 compactness. There are at least 30 different scientific
7 ways to measure how compact a district is, but no
8 statute or court precedent identifies standard criteria
9 of compactness.

10 In theory, compactness focuses on the shape of
11 the district's boundaries, how spread out a district is
12 from the central core or where the district's population
13 center of gravity is. In practice, compactness is
14 hindered by geography and on-the-ground realities. So
15 often, the interpretation of compactness involves more
16 than a visual test.

17 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests its
18 House districts, also called Representative Districts,
19 inside one of its Senate Districts, also called
20 Legislative Districts.

21 Mapmakers will also look where possible to
22 follow existing political and geographical boundaries in
23 ways that maximize a community's opportunity to have its
24 interest represented. As you know, however, county,

1 municipality, township, and natural geographic
2 boundaries are not always compact or contiguous.

3 By studying population data and holding public
4 hearings like this to listen to the thoughts of
5 residents across the state, lawmakers look to identify
6 what are known as communities of interest.

7 A community of interest is a group of people
8 concentrated in a geographic area where socially,
9 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously, or
10 otherwise are alike, and can be joined in a district to
11 most effectively have their voices heard. These factors
12 contributing to any particular community of interest
13 will vary throughout the state.

14 Federal law requires redistricting plans to
15 represent -- to respect minority representation. The
16 principles of the Federal Voting Rights Act are in place
17 to prevent the reduction of opportunities for minority
18 populations to participate equally in the electoral
19 process. However, districts cannot be drawn solely on
20 the basis of race.

21 Illinois law also protects representation of
22 racial and language minority groups. The Illinois
23 Voting Rights Act helps to prevent minority fracturing
24 or dividing of concentration of minorities among two or

1 more districts by requiring mapmakers to consider
2 creating crossover districts, coalition districts, or
3 influence districts.

4 A crossover district is one in which large
5 minority groups may elect the candidate of its choice
6 with help from voters of the majority group.

7 A coalition district brings multiple language or
8 racial minority groups together to elect a candidate of
9 its choice.

10 An influence district allows a group to
11 influence an election outcome without being the majority
12 population in the district. These state law
13 requirements come into play only after compliance with
14 federal law and U.S. and State constitutional
15 requirements on redistricting.

16 In addition, the law ensures transparency and
17 public participation by requiring public hearings across
18 the state, one of which we're having here right now. At
19 the end of the presentation, we will display an email
20 address on the screen, which Chair Hernandez already
21 provided, where you can submit your ideas. The
22 Committee is also accepting written testimony today.

23 Now that we've recovered the redistricting
24 process, let's discuss what data looks like about the

1 Illinois population. The U.S. Census Bureau has delayed
2 the release of much of the decennial census data by more
3 than six months until this fall.

4 However, the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual
5 Population Estimates show some trends that may help
6 inform the work ahead. The Census 2019 population
7 estimate shows an overall decline in state population
8 over the last decade. There are, however, areas that
9 project to have population gains.

10 Communities with the largest percentage by
11 population increase since 2010 are Kendall, Monroe,
12 Champaign, and Kane Counties. Demographically speaking,
13 the state's white population is projected to decline,
14 while African-American population statewide will likely
15 see a smaller overall decline. The Hispanic and Asian
16 population across the state are projected to see growth.

17 Locally, Dupage County is projected to see a
18 modest increase in population. The county's white
19 population stands to decline, while African-American,
20 Asian, and Hispanic population will likely in increase.

21 Thank you very much for your attention and for
22 coming out to share your thoughts today. As the Chair
23 mentioned, you will be able to find testimony from this
24 and other hearings on ILGA.Gov and on

1 ILHouseDems.com/Redistricting.

2 The redistricting website offers additional ways
3 to engage with the process, including our Public Drawing
4 Portal where you can draw and submit your own district
5 maps. You can send further written testimony and
6 suggestions to the Committee anytime by e-mailing
7 RedistrictingCommittee@HDS.ILGA.Gov. Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Marissa.

9 So next we will be moving to our panels. What
10 I'm going to ask is if each person can please spell out
11 your name for the purposes of the court reporter.

12 We'll begin with Pastor Josh Ebener; then it's
13 Michael Childress; then it will be Ms. Kaman; and then
14 followed by Robert Dignan [phonetic]; and then we have
15 Madeleine Doubek as the last witness I have on the list.

16 So, Pastor Josh Ebener, please begin, and I
17 emphasize that we please spell out your names. Thank
18 you. You may proceed.

19 MR. EBENER: Thank you. Thank you so much for
20 having me. Yeah. Josh Ebener, E-b-e-n-e-r is my last
21 name. I serve as the Pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran
22 Church. We are located on the corner of Prince Crossing
23 and Geneva in West Chicago, so kind of on the edge of
24 West Chicago.

1 I'll tell you a little bit about our church. We
2 are really representative of the demographic of West
3 Chicago, which, as you know, is over half Latino
4 Hispanic, so we represent that in our congregation as
5 well. I would say our congregation is more like 65
6 percent Latino.

7 We -- especially since the pandemic -- have made
8 a lot of efforts in serving our community every week.
9 We do a food distribution program, and I would say 95
10 percent of the people served are Latino. So many of the
11 programs that we do -- we've done ESL classes and we
12 have a folkloric dance troop. We have an organization
13 that offers immigration support as well, so we're very
14 much, I think, ingrained in our community and especially
15 our Latino community here. So we're very much
16 representative of that in both our congregation and our
17 outreach as a church.

18 We are on the east side of 59, which I
19 understand is the dividing line of the district. I
20 would say our community of interest is definitely, you
21 know, among our Latino folks here in West Chicago, but
22 around, you know, the east side of, I think, the
23 majority of West Chicago. I'm not sure what the
24 percentage is, but -- so as our church, and I know even

1 in our neighborhood, it's pretty mixed demographically
2 as most of West Chicago is.

3 But in terms of, you know, the community of
4 interest, demographic, I think having that
5 representation and being a part of, you know, the rest
6 of West Chicago -- which is, you know, predominantly
7 Latino -- makes sense for our part of West Chicago as
8 well, which, again, I think is -- you know, Route 59
9 basically goes right through west Chicago as you know.
10 So that's -- kind of divides us from the other part of
11 West Chicago.

12 Yeah. I didn't know if you have any questions,
13 you want me to expand on anything, but I just wanted to
14 share that our church is very much representative of the
15 Latino community both in our congregants and our
16 ministry and our outreach and the people that we serve.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Is that it,
18 Pastor?

19 MR. EBENER: Okay. Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: So we're going to try to
21 keep questions until the end.

22 MR. EBENER: Oh, okay.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: So no worries. Okay.

24 Next, we have Michael Childress from the NAACP.

1 Is he on? I don't -- I don't see him. Okay. We're --
2 let's see if he jumps on.

3 In the meantime, we're going to move to -- is it
4 Reema or is it Syeda? I hope I'm saying it correctly
5 because I have it --

6 MS. Kaman: No. You're doing great. I was
7 fortunate. My parents decided that I needed two names,
8 so, you know, they gave me two names.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

10 MS. Kaman: So it's R-e-e-m-a -- yeah. Sorry
11 about that. I will spell it out for the recorder. So
12 it's Reema, R-e-e-m-a, Syeda, S-y-e-d-a, and the last
13 name is Kaman, K-a-m-r-a-n.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

15 MS. Kaman: Hello, everyone. Thank you,
16 Chairwoman Hernandez and everyone, for inviting us to
17 share out testimony.

18 My name is Reema Syeda Kaman, and I'm with the
19 Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition. We're so excited to be
20 here to speak with you all today.

21 We are a coalition of over 150 partners and
22 allies of all races, ethnicities, class, faith, and
23 backgrounds. Our focus is ensuring that policies made
24 for us are made with us, and redistricting is one

1 critical piece of this.

2 We appreciate CHANGE Illinois for sharing
3 information about this meeting with us. And with your
4 permission, I would just like to share my screen for a
5 short presentation, so I hope you can see my screen now.

6 We are across 10 counties, and our goal is to
7 provide potential redistricting maps by the end of
8 April.

9 In terms of the coalition, the Illinois Music
10 Civic Coalition, the organization that I represent, we
11 recommend that the legislators make sure that when
12 considering redistricting you consider census data plus
13 community organizations and leaders -- testimony of
14 leaders -- and other data are all engaged when
15 considering redistricting, and that the process is
16 transparent, inclusive, and clear.

17 In Illinois alone, we have communities that did
18 not exist in 2010, others that were never vocal about
19 their needs, and still others who have grown in the last
20 10 years. Many of those in the Muslim community fit
21 into this criteria.

22 With your permission, I'd like to share a little
23 data with you, and then my colleague will also share
24 what's happenings in neighborhoods across the State.

1 The American Muslim story is not a new one. It
2 is over 400 years old. It is diverse. Muslim
3 communities across the nation are among the most diverse
4 faith group. We're not a religious organization at the
5 Illinois Music Civic Coalition, but we want to highlight
6 that race, class, and faith connect. And when
7 redistricting, these are critical aspects of a community
8 to discover -- to consider.

9 Those who identify as Muslim, they identify as
10 African-American, almost 30 percent; Asian, almost 25
11 percent; white; Arab; Latino; and African immigrant.
12 This is a story that many of us do not know because it
13 is often an invisible community. Communities that do
14 their work, they follow the rule, and they focus on
15 getting things done.

16 In my own family, we have Arab, Pakistani,
17 Indian, and Latino members. I immigrated to the U.S.
18 over 20 years ago, and I've been an active member of the
19 community ever since. And as an immigrant myself, I'm
20 aware of the challenges, the fears, the hopes, and the
21 dreams that are shared with many hard to count
22 communities. Working through the census this year -- or
23 the last year, we have been able to learn about the
24 efforts of so many communities so become a part of the

1 American dream that we all strive for.

2 Illinois is one of the most diverse states in
3 the U.S. It ranks 25 -- among the top 25 percent in
4 racial diversity and in the top 10 percent in religious
5 diversity. Illinois has some of the largest number of
6 Polish, Irish, African-American, Latino, Catholic, and
7 Hindu residents in the nation.

8 Illinois also has the largest American Muslim
9 per capita population in the United States. They rank
10 among -- Illinois has about 2,800 Muslims per 100,000
11 population. It beats out Virginia, New York, New Jersey,
12 Texas, and even Michigan, which is surprising to a lot
13 of folks.

14 Communities in Illinois, they're working
15 together for a better Illinois, but they have zero
16 representation in Illinois. They live, they work, they
17 play, and pray and serve our cities and counties.
18 Representation matters and elected officials -- just
19 like yourselves -- should understand that our -- their
20 constituents, you know, want representation.

21 Our goal is to provide maps of diverse Muslim
22 communities across the State, and as such, we have three
23 aspects that we'd like you to consider.

24 Muslims represent a critical number of Illinois

1 residents, yet have zero state representation. Please
2 do not push responsibility back to 2030 to provide
3 representation to communities who have zero
4 representation or are under represented.

5 Arab communities are identified as white in the
6 census, and this is incorrect. Consider user census
7 data, ACS data, and community leaders who know the
8 racial, faith, and ethnic demographic across 10 counties
9 as a part of the redistricting process. Ensure that
10 2021 maps reflect diversity of race, ethnicity, and
11 faith across Illinois.

12 We know it's a lengthy and complex process, but
13 we pray and hope that what results from these hearings
14 are well drawn out and equitable districts which do not
15 marginalize any community and instead protect the proper
16 allocation of funds, resources -- funds and resources
17 and create equitable representations for all Illinois
18 residents.

19 So I'll -- I'll pause here, and I would like to
20 introduce Shafeek BOUBA, who I hope is on. Just
21 checking. Shafeek BOUBA is an active community leader
22 and president of the Illinois Muslim Chamber of Commerce
23 and a board member of the Naperville Area Chamber of
24 Commerce. He will share a little bit about the work

1 that he does and the community that he serves and why
2 redistricting matters to him.

3 Shafeek.

4 MR. BOUBA: Thank you, Sister Reema.

5 And good afternoon, everyone.

6 I'm driving, so if there is any -- any
7 disturbance in between, my apologies for that.

8 My name is Shafeek BOUBA, and I live in
9 Naperville. I am the founding president of the Illinois
10 Muslim Chamber of Commerce and also I sit on the board
11 of Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce. We have --
12 under the Illinois Muslim Chamber of Commerce, we have
13 almost around 200 small businesses and, of course,
14 Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce 1,100 or more --
15 more business underneath that.

16 So the thing that I would dislike to mention
17 about the redistricting is as small businesses are
18 concerned about how fairly the redistricting is going to
19 be. There was some conversation between the business
20 owners, and the concern is actually is that going to
21 create any kind of isolation for certain businesses when
22 the businesses are redistricted.

23 Small to medium size businesses especially
24 suffer from this -- you know, they always suffer from

1 this. Rather than having a single representative making
2 a strong case for their district, split municipalities
3 with multiple legislators often representing larger
4 constituents may not be at the top of their legislator's
5 agenda. So that is one of the concerns which small
6 businesses share, and I hope you will understand about
7 it.

8 I was very much involved in the census
9 activities here in our area. I would like to also hear
10 what are the -- what are the role with the community
11 leaders -- like people who are involved in the community
12 and small business owners, chamber of commerces,
13 organizations like that -- will be playing in this
14 process. That's all. Thank you, Reema.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you for that
16 presentation.

17 Next, we have Robert Dignan.

18 Robert, please proceed. Begin with your name
19 and spelling it out. Just reminding you.

20 MR. DIGNAN: Yeah. Thank you, Elizabeth. Thank
21 you. And you got the spelling on the screen there?
22 It's D-i --

23 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. But it's for the
24 purposes -- yeah, for the court reporter, so we

1 need --

2 MR. DIGNAN: And the pronunciation was right on
3 it. Thank you so much.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

5 MR. DIGNAN: I'm not -- I'm just here as an
6 individual. I live in Glen Ellyn. I've lived here for
7 many years. I did participate in the amendment a few
8 years ago for redistricting by getting signatures to try
9 to get that amendment on the ballot, which did not
10 succeed.

11 Really my main interest here in insuring that we
12 have a fair and open process in order to develop the
13 maps. Unfortunately, I think the maps have been -- have
14 not been developed in that way in the past, and I think
15 we've seen some outcomes as a result of that that are --
16 you know, have not been favorable to all.

17 That's all I'm really looking to do, is to make
18 sure that process -- this process coming up now proceeds
19 in that manner. I'm looking forward to that happening,
20 and I think this is a really good sign here, just as
21 you described as we opened the call today that you're
22 having way, way more hearings now than in the past,
23 which I think is good. The scheduling process was easy
24 to understand and participate in, so I'm hoping more

1 people will join this -- the input process as we go
2 forward.

3 I understand there's a tight timeline, and I'm
4 certainly interested also in the -- what the alternative
5 data will be since it appears that the 2020 census data
6 is not going to be available in time for Illinois to use
7 as part of the map process, the redistricting process.
8 But they'll be other forms of information available to
9 use, so I'm also interested in how that data is going to
10 be acquired and used to help make it a more fair
11 process.

12 So, again, I appreciate the opportunity to
13 participate. I just want to make sure that it's open
14 and fair for all citizens across the state.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Robert, for
16 your remarks.

17 Next, we have Madeleine Doubek, but I'm told
18 that she is not on. I believe -- I'm just going to give
19 it one more -- if Mr. Michael Childress did jump on. It
20 does not look like it.

21 Okay. With completing our witness testimony,
22 I'm going to go to Committee members and see if there's
23 any questions for the witnesses.

24 Leader Butler.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 I appreciate the witnesses being here today.
3 I just had a couple of questions for Reema or
4 Shafeek.

5 I know, Reema, in your testimony you -- and I
6 appreciate you being back, and I appreciate the
7 testimony that the Muslim Civic Coalition has done at
8 all of these hearings. I appreciate it. You guys have
9 shown up for everything. It's been great.

10 But one of the things you guys have stressed in
11 your testimony throughout this -- and it's on your slide
12 -- is engaging not just the data, the decennial census
13 data and the ACS data, but also community leaders as
14 part of crafting the maps.

15 So I guess it's one thing to have community
16 leaders here testify, which is great, but how does the
17 coalition envision community leaders actually having a
18 role in the mapmaking process? Not just giving
19 testimony, but how could we -- how can we engage
20 community leaders in that actual process of drawing the
21 maps?

22 MS. Kaman: Thank you so much, Representative
23 Butler, for that question, and we appreciate -- we've
24 been -- we've been grateful and we've been honored to be

1 a part of these hearings.

2 I think the community leadership knows --
3 communities leaders as well as pastors and faith leaders
4 know their communities. A lot of times -- especially
5 communities that are usually underrepresented or
6 communities that have been invisible for so long, I
7 think that we would -- we have been engaging with them
8 with conversations around -- around, you know, faith
9 communities.

10 So we have started the process of drawing maps
11 through these conversations, through town halls, through
12 conversations around tables just like this one, and
13 through having these community conversations, talking
14 about where do we see pockets or large pockets of our
15 community that are coming up. So we're in the process
16 of drawing these maps, and we hope to present them to
17 the Committee -- to the House Committee by the end of
18 April.

19 So the goal is to see where the pockets or large
20 pockets of the community are present and then put
21 together a map along with partners like the Latino
22 caucus, along with partners like UCRO and say, "Hey,
23 where are we seeing large pockets," whether they're
24 faith-based communities or ethnic communities, and

1 seeing what we can -- and create a map using that
2 information.

3 And when I -- and when we're talking about
4 community leaders, those are just conversations that
5 folks are having, you know, around the table or when we
6 have -- when we have gatherings, such as this, to say,
7 "Where do we see large pockets of our community come
8 together?"

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So is the hope -- I
10 guess, you know -- I mean, at some point someone within
11 the legislature, whether it's members or staff, will be
12 physically drawing these maps on computers. Is it the
13 desire of the coalition to be in the room when those are
14 dawn? I guess that's my point.

15 I appreciate the fact that the coalition is
16 going to produce maps. I certainly appreciate the fact
17 that you -- that you're all testifying to this, but my
18 concern is that all of the things that we say in these
19 hearings and then the maps that you unveil really won't
20 make a different when it comes to actually the people
21 who are drawing the maps. I guess that's my point.

22 So would you hope to have representatives from
23 those communities actually physically in the rooms when
24 we're drawing the maps?

1 MS. Kaman: We hope that you take into
2 consideration the maps that we are presenting, and we
3 hope that there is some, you know, conversation around
4 why those maps are being presented.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. I gotcha. I
6 gotcha.

7 And to Bob, thank you for being on here, and I
8 appreciate your support of the constitutional amendment
9 in 2016. I was a strong supporter of the constitutional
10 amendment as well, helped circulate petitions and so on,
11 and so I appreciate that.

12 And, yes, while the -- having Zoom has been
13 easier to have these hearings, I still think, as I've
14 said on some other Committee hearings, that we have wide
15 swaths of the state that aren't like West Dupage County,
16 that aren't a matter of these hearings. While it's
17 great that West Dupage gets represented, we have a lot
18 of counties and a lot of communities who aren't having
19 the same opportunity to have the same hearings that are
20 located for your area as well.

21 And so -- and on top of that, as kind of my
22 comments to Reema pointed out, I have concerns about the
23 fact that what is said in these hearings -- which really
24 has brought out a lot of concerns about the process and

1 the data that we're going to use and the transparency
2 that may or may not be present -- how that's going to
3 translate into the maps.

4 And so I think that's to be seen what happens
5 with the maps and how they're unveiled, and then what
6 happens after that, if we have hearings. Obviously a
7 lot of us have pushed for hearings after the maps are
8 unveiled so the public can, again, have an opportunity
9 to have a say once they see what the actual maps are
10 that the majority has proposed in the legislature.

11 So, anyways, I just want to say thanks, Bob, for
12 your support for the constitutional amendment. I think
13 that's something we're going to continue to fight for,
14 to move Illinois towards a commission and take it out of
15 the hands of the legislators, the politicians drawing
16 our own maps, and putting it into a citizen committee.

17 MR. DIGNAN: Well, that's great. That's exactly
18 what I would be looking for and would hope that that's
19 the way we go.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Leader Butler, is
21 that it?

22 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: That is all. Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

24 Do we have any further questions from members?

1 Okay. I've been kind of searching if anybody -- if
2 anybody else jumped on in terms of witnesses, but they
3 have not. So that really basically concludes our
4 testimonies.

5 I will just add that Representative Kelly Burke
6 did join us, and I will defer to our local elected if
7 they'd like to say any last words, any closing remarks.

8 Representatives?

9 REPRESENTATIVE HIRSCHAUER: I guess that's me.
10 Yeah. Representative Maura Hirschauer in the 49th
11 District.

12 I just wanted to thank all of the witnesses for
13 popping on here today and providing testimony. I'm a
14 freshman representative. This will be my first
15 redistricting process. I am really here, you know, to
16 take everything all in and to listen to what you are
17 saying. Pastor Josh is part of my 49th District, his
18 community there. I guess I do have a question for
19 Pastor Josh. Sorry.

20 Pastor, when you were testifying to the Latinx
21 community in West Chicago, right now it seems that Route
22 59, the dividing line in our district, sort of splits
23 that Latinx community; is that right?

24 MR. EBENER: That's right.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HIRSCHAUER: Right. So I think
2 that's a really important piece of information that
3 Pastor Josh brought to us today. And like Reema was
4 saying, you know, folks in the community like our
5 pastors and our community leaders are really the ones on
6 the ground who can help us make the fairest maps
7 possible.

8 So thank you all for being here.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,
10 Representative, for those remarks.

11 With that being said, once again, I want to
12 thank everyone for participating, and I ask that you
13 continue encouraging. We have still -- what would you
14 say, Representative -- Leader Butler, about 10 more to
15 go?

16 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I think this is number
17 15, so I think there's 8 more on the schedule right now.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: 8 more to go, possibly
19 more. So please encourage, you know, the community to
20 continue trying to give their input. It's very
21 important. So thank you, all, and have a great evening.

22 Oh, by the way, with that, the Committee will
23 recess to the call of the Chair. See you all.

24 (3:45 p.m., hearing concluded.)

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
 2 COUNTY OF COOK)

3

4 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

5 Isaiah Roberts, being first duly sworn, on
 6 oath says that he is a Certified Shorthand Reporter,
 7 Registered Professional Reporter doing business in the
 8 City of Chicago, County of Cook and the State of
 9 Illinois;

10 That he reported in shorthand the proceedings
 11 had at the foregoing Redistricting Committee Meeting;

12 And that the foregoing is a true and correct
 13 transcript of his shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid
 14 and contains all the proceedings had at the said
 15 Redistricting Committee Meeting.

16

17

 18 Isaiah Roberts, CSR, RPR
 19 Illinois CSR #084-004890

20

21 SUBSTRIBED AND SWORN TO
 before me this 30th day of
 22 April A.D., 2021.

23

24

 NOTARY PUBLIC

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